

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03859 01 OF 02 241104Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 006261

R 240939Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8607
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3859

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR LE PINE PINT MILI
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR US SUPPORT OF PLO-LED PALESTINIAN STATE

REF: (A) BEIRUT 6206, (B) KUWAIT 3364 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO
BEIRUT'S STIMULATING CABLE (REF A).

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES NEED TO GIVE PLO LEADERSHIP
ALTERNATIVES TO ITS PRESENT STANCE OF FIGHTING IT OUT
IN LEBANON. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE EVOLUTION OF OUR POLICY
AND INTERESTS MAY BE IN DIRECTION OF PALESTINAIAN SELF-
DETERMINATION IN SOME FORM OF POLITICAL ENTITY ON
WEST BANK. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OUR WIDER INTERESTS
IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN MIDDLE EAST (AS WELL AS
SOME ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH JORDAN)
ARGUE FOR US NOT TO GET OUT IN FRONT IN APPEARING TO
TRY TO ARRANGE PLO-LED STATE. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE
ASSUME THAT CURRENT MOVES TO REDUCE SIZE OF OUR
EMBASSY IN BEIRUT WILL, IN EFFECT, ALSO SERVE PURPOSE
OF REDUCING OUR VULNERABILITY TO PLO POLITICAL
PRESSURES ARISING FROM THEIR CONTROL OVER WEST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03859 01 OF 02 241104Z

BEIRUT SECURITY.

3. OUR WIDER INTERESTS IN DURABLE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT ARGUE STRONGLY AGAINST OUR BECOMING ACTIVE IN LEADING WAY FOR PLO-RULED WEST BANK. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE NOW, WHEN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1970, THERE SEEMS TO BE OPENING UP SOME POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER OF THE PLO. THE CHANGES MIGHT HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS IN INTER-ARAB AS WELL AS ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING CONTEXT. PRESSURE PLO IS UNDER IN LEBANON TODAY COULD ALSO FORCE CHANGES IN OUR INTEREST, AND BECOME THE CAUSE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE SEE LITTLE REASON WHY WE SHOULD REDUCE THOSE PRESSURES WITH A MOVE TOWARD PLO NOW THAT MAY BE PREMATURE. WE NOTE FOR INSTANCE IN REFTEL B THAT EVEN SUCH TRADITIONAL PLO BACKERS AS THE KUWAITIS ARE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MODERATE ARABS SUPPORT SYRIAN ACTIONS AIMED AT CLIPPING PLO WINGS AND ALSO INDICATING THAT SYRIA IS MOVING TOWARDS SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS WEST BANK LEADERSHIP OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. MOREOVER, WHILE EMERGENCE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE THROUGH SELF-DETERMINATION ON WEST BANK MIGHT WELL BE PART OF SCENARIO FOR OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES, ACCEPTANCE AND DURABILITY OF WHATEVER AGREEMENT REACHED IS BEST STRENGTHENED AND PRESERVED BY HAVING IT EMERGE OR APPEAR TO EMERGE FROM PARTIES THEMSELVES. FURTHER, ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT THAT OCCURS UNDER US LEADERSHIP WOULD TEND TO GIVE US GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP MAKE IT WORK (THAT IS TO KEEP PALESTINIAN POLITICAL ENTITY ON WEST BANK PEACEFUL AND NOT THREATENING TO ITS NEIGHBORS) THAN WOULD SIMILAR SOLUTION WHICH CAME ABOUT THROUGH INITIATIVES OF PARTIES INVOLVED.

4. DESPITE GOJ'S PUBLIC FIDELITY TO PRINCIPLES OF 1974 RABAT CONFERENCE WHICH GAVE TO PLO SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURN OF WEST BANK TO ARAB CONTROL, KING HUSSEIN HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THE BELIEF THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA ITSELF WOULD SOONER OR LATER CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY OR A NEED FOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 03859 01 OF 02 241104Z

A RESUMED ROLE FOR JORDAN IN HELPING TO SETTLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. ASIDE FROM HIS AMBITIONS FOR GREATER IMPORTANCE FOR JORDAN THAT RETURN OF WEST BANK WOULD BRING, KING HUSSEIN BELIEVES HE HAS LEGITIMATE SECURITY REASONS TO ENSURE THAT WEST BANK DOES NOT FALL UNDER CONTROL OF LEADERS WHO OR FACTIONS WHICH MIGHT DRAW JORDAN INTO UNWANTED FIGHTING WITH ISRAEL OR WHO MIGHT UNDERMINE POLITICAL

SECURITY OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM ON JORDAN EAST BANK
WITH ITS POPULATION OF ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF PALESTINIAN
ORIGIN. INITIATIVES BY U.S. TO PROMOTE IDEA OF PLO
GOVERNED WEST BANK ARE THUS SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION
BY KING HUSSEIN AS UNDERMINING HIS SECURITY CONCERNS.
RECENTLY KING HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF INFORMATION
FROM WHAT HE WAYS ARE EGYPTIAN SOURCES WHICH TEND
TO REINFORCE THAT FEAR.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03859 02 OF 02 241211Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 006617

R 240939Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8608
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 3859

EXDIS

5. IN ADDITION, AMMAN AT THE MOMENT IS BEING KEPT
ENTHUSED BY ASSESSMENTS WHICH SAY THAT THE SYRIANS
ARE DETERMINED TO FINISH OFF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP
OF THE PLO AND CREATE A "SUPER SAIQA." MOST
JORDANIANS, AND MANY PALESTINIANS HERE ARE QUICK
TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ARAFAT AND PALESTINIANS IN
GENERAL, AND HAVE LITTLE ADMIRATION FOR ARAFAT AND
THE PLO LEADERSHIP, BUT A RATHER SERIOUS COMMITMENT
TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN
RIGHTS. THEY WOULD FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY
THE UNITED STATES WAS MOVING AT JUST AT A TIME, WHEN
AS THEY SAW IT, OUR PAST POLICIES WERE ABOUT TO
BE VINDICATED.

6. FINALLY, KING HAS MENTIONED TO US RECENTLY HIS

GROWING PREOCCUPATION WITH THE NEED FOR A SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN
RAPPROCHEMENT AND HIS FEELING, FROM SUCH SYRIAN
SOURCES AS FOREIGN MINISTER, ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM,
AND ASAD HIMSELF, THAT THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS
CAN PULL IT OFF. JORDANIANS WERE IMPRESSED THAT
AT LAST WEEK'S CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING, BOTH SIDES
TRADED SOMEWHAT MUTED RHETORICAL BLOWS IN
PUBLIC, WHILE IN PRIVATE, THEIR SOURCES SAY,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03859 02 OF 02 241211Z

COOPERATION WAS GOOD. KING WOULD FIND A SHIFT
IN OUR POSITION NOW ALSO STRANGE WHEN HE SEES THE
REAL POSSIBILITY DEVELOPING OF A SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN
RAPPROCHEMENT WHICH MIGHT WELL END UP IN SEEING
PLO SUBORDINATED TO HIGHER INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES,
AND ARAFAT POSSIBLY MOVED OUR, OR FORCED TO FIND
REFUGE IN BAGHDAD OR TRIPOLI. WHILE WE FIND IT HARD
TO CONFIRM MUCH OF THIS GENERAL EUPHORIA, IT DIES
SHAPE PERCEPTIONS FROM HERE. IN SUM, NOW THAT THE
GOJ THINKS, ALONG WITH ITS SYRIAN FRIENDS, THAT PLO
STANDS A GOOD CHANCE OF CRUMBLING, IT WILL BE FAR HARDER
TO GET GOJ TO ACCEPT A US ADVANCE TOWARD PLO
THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A YEAR AGO WHEN THE GOJ
ENCOURAGED US AT HIGHEST LEVELS TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE.

7. WE LEAVE TO DAMASCUS TO COMMENT ON THE SYRIAN
VIEW. HOWEVER, GIVEN ASAD'S APPARENT ENMITY
TOWARD PRESENT LEADERSHIP AND SYRIA'S OVERWHELMING
IMPORTANCE TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT, THAT TOO SHOULD
WEIGH IN THE BALANCE AGAINST SUCH A STEP.
PICKRING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SELFDETERMINATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN03859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-0119
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760725/aaaaavmj.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6206, 76 KUWAIT 3364
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL FOR US SUPPORT OF PLO-LED PALESTINIAN STATE
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, PINT, LE, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006